

In December 1995, as a young woman and graduate of Oakland University, Laura was hired as a caseworker and office manager in my Sterling Heights district office. Here she was a quick learner, a team player and an inspiration to the entire staff. She was wise beyond her years; she was concerned and caring for those constituents she served; and she was fastidious and devoted to her work.

In the prime of her life, in a wonderfully happy marriage to Larry, misfortune struck in September 1996. Laura was diagnosed with leukemia.

With an exceptional fighting spirit, she endured an uphill battle for a little more than two years. Despite stays in the hospital, and its accompanying pain and suffering, Laura kept battling against all odds. Gaining back some strength, and with spirits high, she would come back to work, always hoping for a positive prognosis. But the leukemia returned, and on October 13, it ended her life.

How unfortunate it is that this remarkable woman who had so much to give not only to her family and friends and colleagues, but to society as well, was taken from us—taken away before she had the opportunity to fully realize her bountiful gifts.

I, and her colleagues in both my district and Washington offices, have indeed lost a marvelous friend. I know we will miss her humor, her charm, her insight, her feistiness and her goodness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our condolences to Laura's devoted husband, Larry, to her caring parents, Rosemary and Harold Robinson, and to her loving sister, Elisabeth, and brother, Thomas.

IN SUPPORT OF THE JOHN
BONHAM MEMORIAL FUND

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this country is blessed by the number of individuals and groups who give of their time to help the less fortunate. I would like to use this opportunity to honor one of these philanthropies, the John Bonham Memorial Fund.

The Bonham Fund assists California youth organizations in teaching community responsibility and self-respect to children, primarily young girls. The Fund provides support to the California Police Activities League, the Big Sisters of Los Angeles and a group that teaches arts education to young girls in low-income areas.

The Bonham Fund provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals to contribute to their community by providing enrichment and educational opportunities for low income, at-risk youth. Through the generosity of many, young people in communities throughout California and around the country are benefitting from the good works of this philanthropic organization.

By providing our youth with access to such educational activities, the Bonham Fund is ac-

tively working to enrich the lives of California's younger generations. I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the Bonham Fund's admirable efforts.

DANTE B. FASCELL NORTH-SOUTH
CENTER ACT OF 1991

SPEECH OF

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of legislation that renames the University of Miami's North/South Center in honor of my good friend Dante B. Fascell. Dante Fascell worked tirelessly to help create and fund the North/South Center during his tenure as the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Throughout his service in Congress, Dante Fascell was a constant advocate for the cause of democracy and open dialogue among the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude for his years of service.

Dante Fascell's support for the creation of the North/South Center stemmed from his strong belief that the free exchange of ideas would strengthen our Nation's security, competitiveness and economic vitality. The North/South Center provides a forum for research and policy analysis that is unparalleled by any other institution in the country and promotes better understanding and relations between the United States, Canada, and the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 1990, with the passage of the North/South Center Act, Congress authorized the establishment of the Center as a place for "cultural and technical interchange between North and South." Dante Fascell's dream was to focus the country on the pursuit of policies which strengthen our national economic policy, trade practices, and relations with the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

The North/South Center plays many roles. It is a think-tank, a foundation, a public resource center, and a repository of information. The work of the Center informs our national debate regarding topics of major significance, such as trade, economic growth, immigration, drug control policies, and the spread of democracy.

There is no greater way that we can thank Dante Fascell for his vital contributions to the North/South Center than naming it in his honor. Dante Fascell served his constituents in Florida and the Nation as a whole for 36 years. He is, indeed, worthy of this tribute and I would like to thank my colleagues for passing H.R. 4757.

A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO
HELEN LOPER OF PORT JEFFERSON,
LONG ISLAND

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the U.S. House of Representatives to ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a very happy, healthy, and joyous 100th birthday to Helen Loper of Port Jefferson, Long Island.

Though not many Long Islanders outside of her family and friends know Helen Loper, through her generous spirit and charity for acquaintances and strangers alike, Helen has done so much in her 100 years to make Long Island a better place for all of us to live.

A native Long Islander and a teacher by training, Helen Loper is a dedicated volunteer at Mather Hospital in Port Jefferson, an historic and picturesque seaside village on Long Island's North Shore. An original member of the John T. Mather Hospital Auxiliary, Helen Loper has volunteered there for nearly 50 years, giving selflessly of her time and energy to patients and hospital staff. After a half-century of volunteer service to her community, Helen's spirit and enthusiasm has not waned and today she still works a regular Monday afternoon shift in Mather Hospital's thrift shop.

An avid world traveler, Helen has been to locales as far away as Antarctica, but she always comes back home to Port Jefferson. One of seven graduating students in Port Jefferson High School's class of 1915, Helen Dayton attended college at the Savage School in New York City and then spent a year teaching school in Iowa.

After returning home to Long Island, she met her future husband Carroll Loper and they were married on January 26, 1924, in Miami, Florida, the winter homes for both of their parents. Together the couple had two sons and Helen now has five grandchildren.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues and all of our fellow Americans gathered here today in the People's House to offer our best wishes and heartiest congratulations to Helen Loper of Port Jefferson as she celebrates her 100th birthday on November 18, 1998.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I was unable to record my vote on several measures. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call Number 521; "nay" on Roll Call Number 522; "nay" on Roll Call Number 523; "nay" on Roll Call Number 530; and "aye" on Roll Call Number 531. I appreciate the kindness of the Speaker in approving my earlier leaves of absence.